

**Whereas**, it is with special pleasure that the members of the Missouri House of Representatives pause to recognize the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce, which has distinguished itself as the Show-Me State's first recipient of the Missouri Chamber of the Year award; and

**Whereas**, the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce is one of two hundred chambers of commerce that are part of the larger statewide organization; and

**Whereas**, the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce's accomplishments, legislative affairs, economic development, membership, education programs, and special events were considered during the application process; and

**Whereas**, the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce is to be lauded for its participation in local projects including the formation of the Joplin Capital Corporation, which authorizes loans ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000 to small businesses in low to moderate income areas in the city; the Chamber's incubator project, which provides office space at reduced rates to help new or expanding businesses; the Small Business Resource Center; and its response to the tornado that hit the City of Carl Junction in May 2003; and

**Whereas**, the Joplin Chamber of Commerce currently has more than 1,100 members and looks forward to continued success in the new millennium:

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, unanimously join in extending our most hearty and robust congratulations to all those dedicated individuals affiliated with the Joplin Chamber of Commerce at this proud moment of well-deserved distinction; and

**Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the Joplin Chamber of Commerce in Joplin, Missouri.

Offered by \_\_\_\_\_  
Representative Bryan P. Stevenson  
District No. 128

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Representative Kevin Wilson  
District No. 130

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Representative Marilyn Ruestman  
District No. 131

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Representative Steve Hunter  
District No. 127

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Representative Ronald F. Richard  
District No. 129

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 4876, adopted December 19, 2003.

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Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker